FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

DAWN

Sunday
November 16, 2025
Jumadi-ul-Awwal 24, 1447

KARACHI

Rs 50.00
42 Pages
Vol. LXXIX No. 314
Regd. No. SS-022

www.dawn.com

Pakistan, Jordan affirm zero-tolerance for Palestinians' relocation

• King Abdullah II accorded warm welcome with JF-17 Thunder aircraft escort, guard of honour • Bilateral meeting held at PM House before banquet for visiting delegation • Consistent support for Amman's role in regional stability lauded

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Jordan's King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein on Saturday affirmed "zero-tolerance" for any displacement of Palestinians from the besieged Gaza Strip in the aftermath of the devastating military onslaught by Israel in the territory.

The two states were among the eight Muslim countries that worked with US President Donald Trump's administration on a plan to end Israel's genocide in Gaza last month.

The resolve was expressed in a meeting of PM Shehbaz Sharif and the Jordanian king held at PM House soon after the latter arrived in Pakistan for a two-day state visit.

The king was earlier presented with a guard of honour upon his arrival at PM House, while at the Nur Khan Airbase, he was warmly received by PM Shehbaz and President Asif Ali Zardari. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and First Lady Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari were also present to welcome him.

A statement from the President's Secretariat said that a formation of PAF JF-17 Thunder jets provided an escort and accompanied the royal flight to Islamabad as the king's aircraft entered Pakistani airspace.

President Zardari said King Abdullah II's visit would give Pakistan-Jordan relations a new strategic dimension. He said the ties between the two states were built on historical brotherhood, mutual trust and shared values.

Palestinians cautioned against 'displacement networks': Page 12

Later, a statement issued from PM Office said: "On the issue of Palestine, both leaders acknowledged the unanimity of views and principled positions taken by Pakistan and Jordan regarding the post-war Gaza; zero-tolerance for any displacement of Palestinians from Gaza. The two leaders agreed to enhance coordination among the eight Arab Islamic countries that are working with the US on the Gaza ceasefire and the Gaza Peace Plan signed in Sharm el Sheikh."

King Abdullah II also praised Pakistan's consistent support for Jordan's role in regional stability and humanitarian efforts during the Gaza conflict.

The discussion during the meeting focused on further deepening bilateral relations as well as exploring avenues for enhanced cooperation in different sectors.

"Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing strategic and economic ties between Pakistan and Jordan, as well as expanding mutually beneficial collaboration at regional and international fora."

During the meeting, views were exchanged on regional security and peace initiatives, with PM Shehbaz briefing the Jordanian king on recent developments in Afghanistan and India. "King Abdullah II acknowledged Pakistan's key role in maintaining peace and stability in the region," it added.

PM Shehbaz welcomed the king's visit to Pakistan as a "testament to the enduring friendship" between the two countries, while the latter thanked the people and government of Pakistan for their "warm hospitality".

Both dignitaries also witnessed a ceremony on the exchange of MoUs in the fields of media, culture and education, the statement said.

The premier also hosted a banquet in honour of the king and his accompanying delegation.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, ministers and top officials also attended the meeting.

PRESIDENT Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif receive Jordan's King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein upon his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase.—APP

Another judge quits over 27th Amendment

• Justice Shams Mirza becomes first high court judge to step down • LHC moved against controversial law • Justice K.K. Agha administered FCC oath

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh and Malik Asad

LAHORE / ISLAMABAD: Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza on Saturday tendered his resignation as a judge of the Lahore High Court (LHC), becoming the first high court judge to step down after two Supreme Court judges had resigned after the contentious 27th Constitutional Amendment was enacted into law.

"After the 27th Amendment in the Constitution, I am not inclined as a matter of principle and in good conscience to continue as a judge. I hereby tender my resignation as judge of the Lahore High Court," he wrote in his resignation, a copy of which is available with *Dawn*.

Justice Mirza was appointed an additional judge of the LHC in March 2014, and his superannuation was due on March 6, 2028. He stood fifth in the LHC seniority list and was a member of the court's Administration Committee.

He is the son of the late Justice Zia Mehmood Mirza, a former Supreme Court judge who delivered the famous and sole dissenting opinion in the 1996 case concerning the dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's government by then president Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. He is also a brother-in-law of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Secretary General Salman Akram Raja.

Justice Mirza's resignation follows those of the Supreme Court's senior puisne judge, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Athar Minallah, who also stepped down in the wake of the 27th Amendment.

With his departure, the number of serving judges at the LHC has fallen to 43 against a sanctioned strength of 60.

In a press release, the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) paid tribute to Justice Mirza for his principled resignation and criticised the 27th Amendment for allegedly dividing the higher judiciary into pieces and being responsible for the "burial" of the Constitution.

The LHCBA urged other judges, who it said had taken oath under the

Continued on Page 11

Diesel up by Rs6; petrol price kept unchanged

ISLAMABAD: The government on Saturday increased the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs6 per litre for the next fortnight, while keeping the rate of petrol unchanged at Rs265.45.

In a late-night announcement, the Ministry of Finance said the price of HSD has been raised to Rs284.44 per litre from Rs278.77 — a hike of 2.03 per cent — on the recommendations of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) and other relevant ministries.

Most of the transport sector runs on HSD and its price is considered inflationary as it is mostly used in heavy transport vehicles, trains and agricultural engines like trucks, buses, tractors, tube-wells and threshers and particularly adds to the prices of vegetables and other eatables. Transporters seldom reduce prices.

Petrol is mostly used in private transport, rickshaws and two-wheelers and has a direct bearing on the budget of middle- and lower-middle class. —Staff Reporter

ON OTHER PAGES

Hyderabad fireworks factory blast

Six people were killed and seven injured when an explosion ripped through an illegal fireworks factory inside the riverine area of Hyderabad on Saturday, according to officials. A powerful explosion was reported in the firecracker factory on the left bank of Indus river inside riverine area near Laghari Goth in Latifabad, Hyderabad SSP said. Rescuers were unsure whether anyone remained trapped beneath the debris. **Page 13**

China, Russia may not veto Gaza resolution tomorrow

By Anwar Iqbal

UNITED NATIONS: Senior UN diplomats are cautiously optimistic that China and Russia may abstain rather than veto a US-sponsored Security Council resolution to authorise an international stabilisation force (ISF) in Gaza — a key test of the UN's ability to back a post-ceasefire vision for the enclave, according to diplomatic sources.

The draft resolution is expected to come up for vote in the UN Security Council on Monday, and would take effect if it secures at least nine affirmative votes and avoids a veto from any of the five permanent members (the US, China, Russia, Britain and France).

"China will not veto the resolution, but Russia's position is uncertain, and key as well," said one senior diplomat. Another added, "both China and Russia may abstain, but they will not use their veto."

The draft resolution, formally circulated by the US, would authorise a two-year mandate for a transitional body called the Board of Peace, chaired by President Donald Trump, as proposed in his 20-point Gaza plan. It would also authorise a temporary, 20,000-strong ISF to disarm non-state armed groups, secure humanitarian corridors, protect civilians, and help rebuild

Continued on Page 11

Epstein termed Imran major 'threat to peace' in 2018

New batch of emails shows he believed PTI founder was 'really bad news'

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Disgraced sex offender Jeffrey Epstein termed former prime minister Imran Khan a major "threat to peace" in 2018, days after his PTI won Pakistan's general elections, according to the latest batch of emails released by the US Democrats on the House Oversight Committee.

Epstein mentioned the now-incarcerated PTI founder in his email conversations with an unidentified individual on July 31, 2018, showed the emails released by the US Democrats on the House Oversight Committee on Wednesday.

In 2019, the United States Justice Department charged Epstein in Manhattan with sex trafficking of minors. Epstein pleaded not guilty, but died by suicide the same year before the trial at age 66.

In an email exchange encompassing various topics, Epstein wrote at 4:04am that Russian President Vladimir Putin had been "kind so far" and quipped, "how the US involves itself in others' elections".

Minutes later, Epstein mentioned both Mr Khan and Mr Putin in the same message: "[Mr Putin] hasn't pointed out assassinations to overthrow [governments] … coup funding … Imran [Khan] in Pakistan, a much greater threat to peace than [Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan, Khamenie, [China's President] Xi or [Mr] Putin."

'Bad news'

The other individual asked, "The populist in Pakistan???", to which Epstein only replied "really bad news", apparently referring to the PTI founder.

"The cricket player? — How could he be worse that [sic] the Islamist?" the person conversing with the sex offender wondered.

"Makes Donald [Trump] look like [Albert] Einstein. Incapable of truth. Devout Islamist [sic]," Epstein wrote back, seemingly referring to Mr Khan.

"He [Mr Khan] was married to two friends of mine, one daughter of Jimmy Goldsmith. Super wealthy take over guy. Forced her to convert. Wacko," the paedophile financier claimed.

"It follows your prediction around cults of personality. He is a cricket captain. Not a chess player, but he's good at rousing the crowd," Epstein added.

The conversation, as per the emails released, then went silent for 40 minutes before resuming on another topic.

The Oxford-educated Imran Khan is described as one of the world's greatest all-rounders in cricket before he entered politics.

He had a string of socialite girlfriends, frequented exclusive nightclubs in London and

Continued on Page 5

Plus... EOS | B&A BOOKS & AUTHORS ICON

Keep all medicines out of reach of children. If symptoms persist, please consult a doctor. Follow the instructions on the label for dosage.
Patients with kidney and liver disorders should consult a doctor before use.
Prescribing information available on request.
GlaxoSmithKline Pakistan Limited. Trade marks are owned by or licensed to the GSK group of companies.
© 2025 GSK group of companies or its licensor. CL Code PM-PK-PCT-ADVR-250001 I DOP: November 2025

GSK

Adverse events must be reported. For products related to GSK Pakistan, please report adverse events via email at pk_pharmasafety@gsk.com or call us at +92 (21) 111 475 725 (Ext 7,8)
For further information and personal medical advice consult your Health care professional.